

From: Phoenix Barca
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

In the 1980s, when AT&T was taken before the justices and found to have abused its monopoly and caused harm to the consumers, the justices ordered AT&T to break up and to share its technology with other long distance service providers. Because of that decision, consumers today now enjoy lower cost, more efficient, better long distance service.

The same should be done to Microsoft. For the past decade, Microsoft has illegally used its monopoly to shut many of its competitors out of "its" playing field of the Operating Systems industry. Microsoft, like AT&T, does not offer a better, higher quality service or product. Instead, it uses its position to fix OS prices and gouge the consumer. This is exactly what AT&T did in the 1980s.

AT&T was punished with far more than a mere slap on the wrist. Why should Microsoft be treated any differently for the same behavior? It makes no sense.

Also, monopolies are dangerous to the consumer and to the government. A recent example is the Enron disaster. Imagine if Microsoft were left alone to maintain and abuse its monopoly, only to one day crash and go bankrupt. The effects and damage would be catastrophic on the US economy and the IT industry.

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